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Department of Agriculture.

# CHESTNUT

# CULTURE

1910



E. A. RIEHL  
ALTON, ILL.





ALL KINDS of nuts are becoming more in demand as our population increases and the wild supply diminishes. Especially is this true since nuts are coming more and more into use as an article of food. The chestnut is not subject to any insect pests or diseases. Even San Jose scale does not harm it, so I am informed by growers in the East. Crops are never known to fail. Some seasons part of the crop may be destroyed by late frosts, or later some of the nuts may be blown off by very high winds, but a total failure, as with fruits, I have never known. Let it be distinctly understood, when I say that the chestnut is not subject to any insect or diseases, I refer to sections where the chestnut is not native. In the thirty-five years that I have grown chestnuts, I have never seen but two nuts that had a worm in them; nor do I think it at all likely that they will be introduced for many years to come. The native chestnut forests are too far away, and artificial plantings too few and scattered to form a bridge for their introduction.

The market for chestnuts is not likely to be fully supplied for many years, if ever. Prices for first-class nuts are excellent—25 cents per pound wholesale in Chicago.

I know of no more promising horticultural proposition than chestnut growing. I have planted thousands of trees and am still planting, confident they will pay me better than anything else would. Lands too broken for cultivation can be planted to chestnut with great profit, and when the trees are large enough can be pastured. However, if chestnut orchards are planted on good orchard land and well cultivated, they will make better growth and produce profitable crops much sooner.

I have on my premises a native chestnut tree, planted in 1863, that is between 60 and 70 feet high, and 7 feet 6 inches in circumference. It has borne regular crops ever since coming into bearing. I make this statement simply as evidence

that the chestnut will thrive in sections where the soil is right, that is, where there is good drainage and not underlaid with hard pan. The common American chestnut is too small and requires too long to come into bearing to be worthy of planting, especially as we have others that are larger, come into bearing earlier, and are of fine quality.

Some twenty years ago I became interested in nut culture, procuring all kinds of nuts, from all parts of the country that I heard of as promising and that could be procured, among them some twenty-five varieties of the chestnut. These have been sufficiently tested to determine which are the best. Of those tested the following named varieties have proven themselves most worthy of being planted :

**Boone**—Originated by Geo. W. Endicott, of Villa Ridge, Ill. In the spring of 1895 he fertilized blossoms of Japan Giant with pollen of the native American. The seed thus produced was planted in the Spring of 1896 in rich soil. In the fall 1897 one of the trees grown from these seeds produced six burrs filled with nuts. This was named Boone. It has borne annually since, the following amounts: 1 lb., 3 lbs., 5 lbs., 6 lbs., 8 lbs., 12 lbs., 17 lbs., 25 lbs., 31 lbs., 43 lbs., 50 lbs., 56 lbs., 5 lbs. This year's small yield is due to hard freezing weather late in April, after growth had been made of ten to twelve inches and were in full bloom. Young trees often bear in the nursery row. One of the earliest bearing and earliest ripening varieties we have. Nut large and of excellent quality. Tree a good grower and abundantly productive. Its only fault is that it is very hard to propagate.

**Cooper**—A rapid, healthy grower, coming into bearing early; second early ripening, a few days after Boone. The nuts are large, handsome and of very good quality.

**McFarland**—Said to have originated with Mr. Burbank, of California. The tree is the strongest grower of any



that I have tested. A beautiful tree and very abundant bearer. The nut is of good size and quality.

**Rochester**—An improved native, of the largest size and an unusually vigorous grower, its seedlings making more than twice the growth of the ordinary native. In quality equal to the smaller native chestnut of the Eastern states. A good grower and abundant bearer. Probably more hardy than any of the others and will succeed farther North.

**Rush Chinquepin** is a small tree, a near relative of the chestnut, bearing enormous crops on very small trees, of even better quality than any chestnut. Fine for amateurs and the children. Should be extensively planted for home use.

I am not in the nursery business and have no other nursery stock to sell. But having had many inquiries for trees of these varieties of chestnuts and as no nursery is propagating them, I have grown a limited number of trees which I offer at the following prices :

|                  |   |   | Grafted or Budded<br>Trees, 3 to 6 ft.,<br>each | Seedlings<br>each | Nuts for<br>Planting<br>per pound | Scions<br>per<br>foot |
|------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Boone,           | - | - | \$1.50  | 25c               | \$1.00                            | 10c                   |
| Cooper,          | - | - | 1.00  | 15c               | .50                               | 5c                    |
| McFarland,       | - | - | 1.00  | 15c               | .50                               | 5c                    |
| Rochester,       | - | - | 1.00  | 10c               | .50                               | 5c                    |
| Rush Chinquepin, | - |   | 1.00  |                   | 1.00                              | 10c                   |

The above prices include packing when the order amounts to \$5.00 or more.

Nurserymen and large planters please write for special quotations.

Address all orders to

**E. A. RIEHL,**  
Alton, Illinois.